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AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-4, 7, and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for producing a first polyketide, said method comprising expressing polyketide synthase (PKS) genes encoding a first PKS that produce the first polyketide in an overproducing cell that has been optimized for production of a second polyketide, The method of Claim 1, wherein the overproducing cell produces the second polyketide at a level greater than 1 g/L of culture medium, and wherein the genes encoding the second PKS are deleted or otherwise rendered inactive.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for producing a first polyketide, said method comprising expressing polyketide synthase (PKS) genes encoding a first PKS that produce the first polyketide in an overproducing cell that has been optimized for production of a second polyketide, The method of Claim 1, wherein the overproducing cell produces the second polyketide at a level greater than 10 g/L of culture medium, and wherein the genes encoding the second PKS are deleted or otherwise rendered inactive.

Claim 7-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (withdrawn): An overproducing host cell useful in the method of Claim 1 from which the genes encoding the second polyketide have been deleted and in which the genes encoding the PKS that produces the first polyketide can be readily introduced and expressed.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The host cell of Claim 9 that is derived from a *Saccharopolyspora erythraea* host cell that produces erythromycins at a level exceeding 2.5 g/L and is modified by deletion of all or substantially all of the *eryA* genes.